

Message Text

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ACTION FBO-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-05 ISO-00 /007 W
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R 131111Z DEC 73
FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1491
INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 1812

DEPT FOR FBO RALSON AND HOOKER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ABLD PFOR SO US

SUBJ: EMBASSY COMPOUND: CONVERSATION WITH FONMIN DEC. 13, 1973

REF: A. MOGADISCIO 1674; B. MOGADISCIO 1774

1. SUMMARY: OMAR ARTEH DECEMBER 13, RESTATED THAT VALLEJO EXPULSION WAS NOT RPT NOT RELATED TO COMPOUND. HE PROMISED THAT GSDR WOULD TAKE NO UNILATERAL ACTION ON COMPOUND AND SUGGESTED TRIPARTITE MEETINGS BETWEEN FONOFF, EMBASSY AND MINISTRY PUBLIC WORKS. END SUMMARY.

2. FONMIN NOTED THAT NEW REGULATIONS ON DIPLOMATIC ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY CALLED FOR RECIPROCITY. HE ALSO SAID MANY PEOPLE FEEL US COMPOUND IS TOO LARGE. CONSIDERATION SHOULD THEREFORE BE GIVEN TO OUR RETURNING PORTION OF LAND TO GSDR OR PERHAPS OUR ACQUIRING "MORE COMPACT" SIDE ELSEWHERE IN CITY. HE RECALLED INCONCLUSIVE DISCUSSIONS ON THIS MATTER BETWEEN MY PREDECESSOR AND VICE PRESIDENT CULMIE. HE ALLEGED THAT ITALIAN GOVERNMENT, WHICH HAD BEEN GIVEN LAND NEXT TO US COMPOUND, HAS DECIDED TO RETURN IT TO SOMALIA FOR SITE OF NEW UNIVERSITY. HE SUGGESTED THAT THREE-WAY DISCUSSIONS ON COMPOUND QUESTIONS BE HELD AMONG REPRESENTATIVES OF US EMBASSY, FOREIGN MINISTRY AND MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS.

3. I NOTED THAT THE LAND IN QUESTION HAD BEEN GIVEN TO USG
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MANY YEARS AGO. WE HAD INVESTED OVER ONE AND A HALF MILLION

DOLLARS IN IT. I ASKED IF GSDR SEEKING TO PUT IN QUESTION OUR TITLE TO IT.

4. FONMIN SAID GSDR WANTED GOOD RELATIONS WITH US AND DESIRED TO FACILITATE MY MISSION. HE COULD GIVE "CATEGORICAL ASSURANCES" THAT GSDR WOULD NOT RPT NOT TAKE ANY ACTION ON THE PROPERTY EXCEPT IN AGREEMENT AND COOPERATION WITH US. WHOLE QUESTION SHOULD BE REVIEWED BY TRIPARTITE REPRESENTATIVES AND THEN DISCUSSED BETWEEN HIM AND ME. HE RECOGNIZED I WOULD HAVE TO BE IN CONSULTATION WITH WASHINGTON DURING SUCH DISCUSSIONS.

5. I SAID I WOULD REPORT AND BE BACK IN TOUCH.

6. FONMIN SAID VALLEJO EXPULSION WAS WORK OF SECURITY SERVICE (NSS). SIAD HAD NOT RPT NOT KNOWN OF EXPULSION. FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD BEEN INFORMED AT LAST MINUTE. EXPULSION HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH VALLEJO'S WORK ON COMPOUND. NSS HAD RESPONDED TO FOREIGN MINISTRY INQUIRIES (FOLLOWING MY NOVEMBER 14 CONVERSATION WITH FONMIN (REF A) AS TO MOTIVE FOR EXPULSION BY CITING UNSPECIFIED "SECURITY REASONS". IF I WANTED MORE INFORMATION, FONMIN WOULD TALK PERSONALLY TO NSS HEAD SULEIMAN.

7. I SAID AN EXPLANATION OF REASONS FOR EXPULSION INDEED WOULD BE DESIRABLE AND WENT ON TO EMPHASIZE IMPORTANCE OF VALLEJO TO PROJECT. I NOTED THAT IT WOULD BE GREAT HELP IF HE COULD BE PERMITTED TO RETURN, AND OBSERVED THAT ANY APPOINTMENT OF NEW PROJECT SUPERVISOR WOULD CAUSE CONSIDERABLE DELAYS. OMAR ARTEH SAID HE WOULD TALK TO SULEIMAN, BUT THAT IN MEANTIME WE MIGHT SAVE TIME BY TAKING PRELIMINARY STEPS TOWARD LOCATING POTENTIAL FOR VALLEJO.

8. OUR RECOMMENDATIONS IN LIGHT OF THIS LATEST CONVERSATION WILL FOLLOW SEPTEL. KIRK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPULSION, CONSTRUCTION, MEETINGS, EMBASSIES, PROPERTY TITLES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MOGADI01812
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: MOGADISCIO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731227/aaaaatoq.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION FBO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. MOGADISCIO 1674; B. MOGADISCIO 17, 74
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10-Jan-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <31-Jan-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EMBASSY COMPOUND: CONVERSATION WITH FONMIN DEC. 13, 1973
TAGS: ABLD, PFOR, SO, US, (VALLEJO, ELISEO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005